

I. The Last Times?

- A. This always makes Christians sound nutty.
- A. But ... everyone is interested in the end of the world.
- B. We all know it's going to happen!
- C. We all want to know how to get through *our* last times and *the* last times.

II. Savior of the Last Times

- A. Remember that 1 Peter is addressed to people who are suffering for their commitment to Jesus.
- B. Jesus is the long-awaited savior
- B. The Spirit of Christ ... the Holy Spirit, speaking of the coming Messiah's sufferings and glories
- C. In Jesus, our suffering in the last times makes sense.
- D. What other saviors do people have to get them through their own suffering?
- E. What saviors do people count on to get them through "the last times"?

III. Hope of the Last Times

- A. Prepare your minds for action.
- B. Be sober/totally self-controlled.
- C. Fix your hope on the grace that is coming to you in the revelation of Jesus Christ

IV. Identity in the Last Times

- A. Children of God
- B. Called by a holy God
- C. Those who address an impartial judge as Father.
- D. People redeemed (ransomed from slavery) with the priceless blood of Jesus from our inherited way of life.
- E. How do we identify ourselves?
 - 1. If we identify ourselves by what we don't do ...
 - 2. (By the way, everyone does this.)
 - 3. But if we identify ourselves by what God did ...

V. Confidence in the Last Times

- A. Jesus' sufferings and glory were foreknown by God. Therefore our sufferings in the last times are in God's hand as well.
- B. Ever since Jesus rose in triumph and ascended to heaven it has been the "last times".
- C. Confidence in God
- D. Confidence through the resurrection
- E. Jesus is the clue to understanding suffering.